

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

If you believe what the leading republican newspapers say, Chicago went "populist" last week.

The opposition of the Chicago daily press continues to be a sure sign that those whom they oppose will win out.

It takes something more than money to make missionary work successful, a fact that some ministers of the gospel seem to have overlooked.

President Roosevelt says he is going to lose himself in the woods. He may seize the opportunity to lose a few issues which he raised, too.

Rev. Mr. Gladden managed to start Mr. H. H. Rogers to talking, and when Mr. Rogers opens his mouth he usually inserts his pedal extremity therein.

The United States senate, which insists on being first at social functions, also persists in being last when it comes to doing something for the country.

If it were not for the Philadelphia republican machine we would insist that the Mergenthaler typecasting machine is the greatest machine ever invented.

Some of those \$100,000 men we hear about receive \$1,500 for the work they do and \$98,500 for what they keep others, principally courts and legislatures, from doing.

It cost Major Warner \$28.90 to be elected senator. When he gets down to Washington he will meet senators who spent vastly more but are not worth nearly so much.

The primary pledge plan of organization will assist in the work of advancing genuine democratic principles and is therefore deserving of the support of all democrats.

The attempt to fix responsibility for great disasters seems to be about as futile as the effort to prevent great disasters by enacting laws providing for thorough inspection.

It may be the administration desires to let tariff revision sentiment pass the 60-year age limit and then chloroform it. But the tariff revision sentiment only grows stronger with age.

If the supreme court will take the lead in dealing out justice, the people will not worry about whether the supreme court has to tag after the diplomatic corps at state functions.

The contest in the Bennett will case has been finally settled, the decision of the supreme court being that the trust which Mr. Bennett attempted to create was ineffective so far as the \$50,000 was concerned. The matter will be referred to again when the estate is finally closed up.

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"Vote for Harlan and Chicago, not for party prejudice!" shouted the Record-Herald the morning of election. The voters saw through the plea for partisanship and voted for Dunne and municipal ownership.

The readers of **The Commoner** may be interested in knowing that Judge Dunne, the newly elected mayor of Chicago, was the man whom Mr. Bryan, at the request of a majority of the Illinois state convention, tried to have substituted for Mr. Hopkins as a delegate-at-large from Illinois to the St. Louis convention.

A reader of **The Commoner** sends in a clipping from the New York Herald which represents Mr. Bryan as smoking in a railway waiting room and refusing to obey when a porter announced that smoking was not allowed. As Mr. Bryan does not use tobacco in any form, he is at a loss to know whether it is a case of mistaken identity or whether it is a pure fabrication.

The Congregational ministers who are opposing the Rockefeller donation might take as their text the 8th verse of the 23d chapter of Exodus, "And thou shalt take no gift; for the gift blindeth the wise and perverteth the words of the righteous." The defenses of Mr. Rockefeller which have been made by eminent divines show the necessity for this commandment.

Word comes from Abilene, Kansas, that a democratic club has been organized there. It began a year ago with twelve members—it has now enrolled one hundred and fifty, it being one of the largest if not the largest young men's club in the state. Success to the Young Men's club at Abilene. May its influence increase with its membership, and always be thrown upon the right side of public questions.

Governor Montague, of Virginia, in announcing his candidacy for the United States senate, endorses the election of United States senators by the people. It is an encouraging sign that the sentiment in favor of this reform is so strong that candidates for the United States senate are finding it to their advantage to announce their position upon it. It is only a question of time when United States senators will be elected by direct vote of the people.

A democratic editor of experience, who will run a live, progressive democratic newspaper that will lead public opinion instead of reflecting it, may learn of a location by addressing "J. F. B." care **The Commoner**, Lincoln, Neb. The location is in Iowa in a live town of 600 people, having one republican paper, and in a county having a population of upwards of 50,000. Local democrats will give a democratic paper loyal support. A cash capital of about \$500 is required to buy a printing plant already there.

Any sort of excuse will serve the administration managers in their efforts to prevent further growth in the deficit. Now comes talk of a duty on coffee, but instead of making the honest admission that the duty is wholly a revenue measure, the advocates

are insisting that it will be for the purpose of protecting and fostering the coffee industry in our insular possessions. This will deceive only those who are anxious to be deceived. Republican extravagance has resulted in a big deficit, and measures must be taken to secure more revenue. That means that the usual republican course of levying tribute on those least able to pay it will be followed. Those best able to pay will escape, as usual.

Rev. Washington Gladden makes a point that earnest church workers everywhere should ponder upon when he says that the rejection of Mr. Rockefeller's gift to the Congregational missionary fund "will strengthen our churches in the affections and

respect of millions who are inclined to doubt whether the churches love God more than mammon." No thoughtful observer will deny that there is a growing feeling among the working classes that the churches of today are not deeply interested in their welfare, paying more attention to the rich and powerful whose immense contributions keep the church machinery in motion. This feeling will account in large measure for the church's failure to reach the masses of the people, and if the feeling is unfounded the church should make the fact known by its actions and by its teaching.

The Sioux City Journal, pointing out some differences between President Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan says: "Mr. Bryan is a free trader and Mr. Roosevelt is a protectionist." The Sioux City Journal would doubtless be much interested in reading what Mr. Roosevelt the protectionist says and then comparing it with what Roosevelt the free trader said. If the Journal is disposed to be at all fair it will, after reading and comparing, admit that Roosevelt the free trader had much the advantage of Roosevelt the protectionist in the arguments presented. The Journal might also be interested in comparing what Roosevelt the anti-expansionist said with what Roosevelt the advocate of imperialism says. We assure the esteemed Journal that it will find a whole lot of amusement if it will undertake to compare the various and contradictory positions Mr. Roosevelt has taken on a number of important questions now confronting the people.

American newspapers that exhibit an inability to understand why the Russian people submit to the autocratic power of the grand dukes, are the same newspapers that have no criticism to offer of the autocratic rule of the United States by the trusts and corporations. The grand dukes nullify all efforts made by the Russian people to secure relief from existing conditions, and in the United States the trusts and corporation nullify the efforts of the people to secure relief from trust extortion. Are we as a people in a position to criticize the Russian people, or are we in a position to sympathize with them in a common affliction?

An esteemed contemporary announces that Mr. Bryan has advised the democrats of Ohio whom to nominate for governor, and having made the announcement proceeds to read Mr. Bryan a lecture for attempting to dictate to the democrats of Ohio.

If the editor were as anxious to know the truth as he is to find something to find fault with, he would ascertain by inquiry that Mr. Bryan has not mentioned any person in connection with the governorship, or given any advice in regard to the selection of a candidate. He has done in Ohio as he has done elsewhere—refused to advise or even to discuss the availability of candidates. His rule is not even upon request to give advice as to persons to be nominated where those persons advocate democratic principles. He does reserve the right to say that only those should be nominated who can be trusted to carry out democratic principles.

The death of Jules Verne at a ripe old age forcefully recalls the fact that he was a pioneer in the line of so mixing fiction and science as to interest the seeker after the former as well as the interest of the seeker after the latter. It is generally acknowledged that Verne was a master of this literary style. Thirty years ago the plots of some of his stories were considered impossible in real life. His great sub-marine boat, the Nautilus, has, however, become a fact. The globe is easily encircled in less than eighty days by an energetic traveler. Many of his once fanciful electric apparatus are in actual use today. Would it be safe to assert that it will never be possible to journey to the moon or to the center of the earth? Verne contributed a great deal to the world that was serviceable and helpful, and his memory will be cherished wherever books and science and civilization hold sway.

The **Commoner** has many republican readers and its editor appreciates the kind words that they say in regard to the manner in which democratic principles are defended in the columns of **The Commoner**. It is the aim of the paper to present, first, the facts, and then to draw from those facts only such conclusions as are warranted. The editor endeavors to avoid misrepresentation of both adherents to and opponents of the democratic position, and will be glad at any time to publish a correction if, by inadvertence, injustice is done. It never pays to misrepresent the arguments of an opponent. If the argument has strength it ought to be acknowledged; if it has weakness, the weakness ought to be exposed, but a candid statement of the argument of an opponent is necessary to any satisfactory refutation. Fairness to political opponents is demanded as much by policy as by principle.

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